

**Salt Reduction Study  
Steering Committee Meeting**

**October 23, 2007, 9:00 pm to 10:30 pm**

**Location: NH DOT, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH**

**Attendees:**

Barbara McMillan,	N.H. DES
Eric Williams,	N.H. DES
Phil Trowbridge,	N.H. DES
Mark Hemmerlein,	N.H. DOT
Caleb Dobbins,	N.H. DOT
Bill O'Donnell,	Federal Highway Admin.
Jaime Sikora,	Federal Highway Admin.
Myra Schwartz,	EPA (by speakerphone)
Steve Whitman,	Jeffrey H. Taylor & Assoc.

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Steering Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed Jaime Sikora who will be taking over for Bill O'Donnell.

**2. Feedback on the October Workgroup Meeting**

The Committee noted that the towns were quiet, but listening at the meeting. Not many comments have been submitted on the TMDL Drafts so far. Mark Hemmerlein added that DOT will be submitting three pages of comments once Bill Cass signs off on them.

**3. Discussion of Next Steps**

The Committee determined that a draft of the funding criteria should be sent out to the Workgroup in December. This lead to a long discussion on what the criteria and timeline should be for this initial phase of funding to the communities. It was determined that this initial funding cycle will be referred to as *Step 1*.

The Steering Committee then decided that the amount of money dispersed to the Towns of Salem, Windham, Derry, Londonderry, and Chester should be \$50,000 each. Each community will be required to have adopted a resolution (by the Board of Selectmen or Town Council) committing the Town to efforts that will reduce the use of road salt on roads and parking lots. The Steering Committee will supply the towns with a draft resolution, and Eric Williams agreed to work on an initial draft for the Steering Committee to review. Mark Hemmerlein expressed concern that the criteria assigned to the grant agreement would place DOT in more of a regulatory role. Eric Williams disagreed stating that this is a voluntary program for the communities that want to access these funds. This lead to a discussion on how to be most effective in getting the Towns to work toward strategies that will address the findings of the TMDLs and reduce road salt use.

The Steering Committee then identified a process where Towns that accept the \$50,000 under *Step 1* will also be required to sign a grant agreement with NHDOT specifying that their community will produce a report to DOT and DES with:

- A Plan for a Road Salt Reduction Implementation
- A Plan for developing a Local Road Salt Accounting System
- A Plan for Complying with their MS4 permit in terms of road salt
- A Funding Request for Step 2 Grants

The communities may use the Funding under Step 1 to hire a consultant to complete these tasks, or they may complete these tasks in-house if the expertise is available.

The Steering Committee is hopeful that the Workgroup members and local leaders can be informed of this process and engaged during the first few months of 2008, resolutions can be adopted by April, funding can be dispersed to the qualifying towns in May, and the items identified by the grant agreement can be completed by October of 2008. Each community will be required to provide the items required by the grant agreement to the Steering Committee before they can qualify for additional Road Salt Reduction Funds.

The Steering Committee then discussed developing additional funding criteria for a second funding cycle with assistance from the Workgroup. This task will be started by the Steering Committee, circulated to the Workgroup members by email for comments and suggestions, and adopted at the April 2008 Workgroup meeting. These funding criteria will be drafted based on the results of *Report 2* from Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates, and the TMDL Implementation Plan being created by NHDES in 2008.

This discussions generated questions from the Steering Committee members on how much of the earmark will be provided directly to the towns for salt reduction efforts and how much should be set aside for regional initiatives like training and social marketing.

#### **4. Draft TMDL Reports**

Phil Trowbridge delivered a draft of the Dinsmore TMDL, and explained that the Beaver Brook TMDL is now being reviewed internally at DES. Phil also provided copies of the Addenda for Dinsmore Brook's additional sampling. This covered an additional three months worth of sampling to further inform the data report.

#### **5. Long-Term Monitoring**

DES was planning on looking at winter chloride concentrations in 4 locations and estimating stream flows at these site using the Beaver Brook gage. However, most water quality violations are in summer and the stream flows at the Beaver Brook gage are not well correlated with flows at the monitoring stations.

Phil Trowbridge proposed to keep a data loggers in each watershed year-round to measure chloride concentrations for ten years but not to monitor or estimate flows at these stations. The goal is to monitor salt imports to the watershed and the number of chloride water quality violations in the stream.

Myra Schwartz clarified that that towns will need to report out under their MS4 permits as well using the DES data.

The Committee then discussed the usefulness of the North Tributary data logger, and determined that it may not be useful to keep that unit in place.

#### **6. Distribution of Salt Loading by Sector**

Mark Hemmerlein raised a question about the distribution of loading by sector identified in the TMDL Reports. Noting that the TMDL calls for an even distribution of salt reduction under each sector Mark asked if there was room for negotiation. DOT feels that their reduction should not be the same as the other two sectors.

Phil Trowbridge responded stating that this should be finalized in the TMDL Implementation Plan, but that there is room for negotiating. Phil added that it will be important to determine the allocations for the towns by April of 2008.

The Steering Committee decided that a meeting should be organized for DOT and the four primary towns to discuss the allocations before the April Workgroup meeting to determine the final allocations for Workgroup approval. It was recommended that this meeting be held in February, and that Owen Williams be invited to represent the private sector. Phil Trowbridge will coordinate this meeting.

## **7. Adjourn**

Myra Schwartz informed the Steering Committee that there will be a Low Impact Development conference in May of 2008 for municipalities, and a second conference is being organized for the fall of 2008 for the development community.

Eric Williams updated the Steering Committee members on HB 1254 the potential amendment to 31:39. Tom Fargo has requested that DOT and DES attend the hearing together in support of this change.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.